

Our journey into space will go on. The work of the crew of the *Columbia* and the heroic explorers who traveled before them will continue.

**Proclamation 7695—Women’s Equality Day, 2003**

*August 26, 2003*

*By the President of the United States of America*

**A Proclamation**

The 19th Amendment to the Constitution, ratified on August 26, 1920, guaranteed the right to vote for American women. Women’s Equality Day commemorates this constitutional amendment and is an opportunity for citizens across our country to honor those who took part in the long and difficult struggle for women’s suffrage, as well those since 1920 who have continued to fight for equal rights for women.

Beginning with the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848, women’s suffrage supporters lectured, wrote, marched, and lobbied for enfranchisement of American women. Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Lucretia Mott led this movement and advocated an amendment to the Constitution that would guarantee women the right to vote. Through their vision and dedication, these women advanced the fight for equal rights.

Today, American women are making a difference in their communities and workplaces. Women’s accomplishments in education, business, science, art, medicine, athletics, and every other field have made America better and stronger. The courage and determination of American women are exemplified in the personnel serving in our Armed Forces. Women across America are also helping to secure our country by serving as police officers, firefighters, doctors, nurses, paramedics, and first-responders.

Americans believe in opportunity for all and on this day, we honor the achievements of women who have charted the path to equal opportunity.

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by

the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim August 26, 2003, as Women’s Equality Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of August, in the year of our Lord two thousand three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-eighth.

**George W. Bush**

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NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on August 28.

**Remarks at a Dinner for Senator Christopher S. “Kit” Bond of Missouri in St. Louis**

*August 26, 2003*

Thanks for the warm welcome. It’s such an honor to be here in the great State of Missouri. I am here because I believe Kit Bond is the right man for the United States Senate.

And I want to thank you for his—for your strong support for this fine Senator. Looks like you’ve got a few friends here in Missouri, Senator. [*Laughter*] Actually, I wasn’t his first choice to come tonight. [*Laughter*] Laura is stuck on the ranch. [*Laughter*] But she sends her very best to Kit and to Linda.

Just as a kind of step back, I am really fortunate that Laura Bush said yes when I asked her to marry me. She is a great First Lady and a fabulous wife. I appreciate—you know, Senator Bond and I both married above ourselves. [*Laughter*] And it’s great to see Linda. She’s done a lot for him. She shortened his speeches and shortened his waistline. [*Laughter*] He’s getting in fighting form for the ’04 elections.

I’m also honored to be here with former Senator Jack Danforth. What a distinguished citizen of your State he is. He’s working hard to bring peace to the Sudan. It’s about as tough as an assignment as somebody can be given. But because of his steady demeanor and patience and his faith in freedom and peace, I think we’ll achieve peace in the